

State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MONTH

2008

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, fresh fruits and vegetables are enjoyed by millions of consumers every day, and the North Carolina fresh fruit and vegetable industry generated in 2006 an estimated \$456 million in farm income according to the Agricultural Statistics from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; and

WHEREAS, the fresh fruit and vegetable industry is yet another part of the total diversification of agriculture in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the industry also provides employment for many of our State's citizens and provides supplemental income for a number of rural families who farm on a part-time basis; and

WHEREAS, last year, there were about 18,000 acres of fruits and 131,000 acres of vegetables grown in the State according to the Agricultural Statistics from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; and

WHEREAS, the leading North Carolina fruit and vegetable commodities were sweet potatoes, cucumbers, and strawberries according to the 2006 Agricultural Statistics from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; and

WHEREAS, because of the cooperation of fresh fruit and vegetable producers, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and allied industry, hundreds of farms are flourishing across the State, and North Carolina is recognized as a leader in fresh fruits and vegetables in the Southeast; and

WHEREAS, major studies of health and nutrition indicate that fruits and vegetables contribute in important ways to the prevention of certain diseases, including cancer and high blood pressure; and

WHEREAS, leading health authorities, including the United States Surgeon General, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society, recommend that Americans eat at least nine servings of fruits and vegetables a day in accordance with the USDA dietary guidelines; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina fresh fruits and vegetables offer a wide variety of tastes, flavors, textures and colors to the American diet, and are nutritious, economical and convenient; and

WHEREAS, these quality products provide Tar Heels and other consumers a most versatile and nutritious commodity that is truly a symbol of goodness;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 2008, as "FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MONTH" in North Carolina and urge our citizens to support the




MICHAEL F. EASLEY

have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina this fifth day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of America the hundred and thirty-second.